

Message Text

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45

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 EB-07 /068 W

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R 082146Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8674

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652

SUBJECT: CHILEAN JOURNALIST GERMAN HAUSER

1. THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT HAS ARRESTED AND IS PROCEEDING TO EXPEL LOCALLY EMPLOYED CHILEAN JOURNALIST, GERMAN HAUSER, FOR ALLEGED VIOLATION OF VENEZUELAN LAWS. ACCORDING TO MAY 9 EL NACIONAL, AND CONFIRMED BY HAUSER'S NEWSPAPER, EL MUNDO, DECISION TO EXPEL HAUSER WAS TAKEN TUESDAY (MAY 6) BY THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR. HE WAS NOT DETAINED UNTIL MAY 7 BECAUSE POLICE COULD NOT LOCATE HIM.

2. EL NACIONAL SAYS THAT A HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL CONFIRMED THE EXPULSION ORDER AND THAT THE REASONS FOR IT WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE PRESS LATER. UNOFFICIALLY, THE PAPER REPORTED THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAD WARNED THE JOURNALIST ON "HIS ACTIVITIES IN THE COUNTRY, SPECIFICALLY ON THOSE (ACTIVITIES) LIMITED TO VENEZUELAN CITIZENS BECAUSE OF THEIR POLITICAL CHARACTERISTICS." UNDER GOV LAW, FOREIGNERS MAY NOT ENGAGE IN THE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF THIS COUNTRY.

3. HAUSER IS SAID BY EL MUNDO SOURCE TO BE UNDER ARREST "FOR HAVING GOTTEN TOO INVOLVED IN VENEZUELAN POLITICS AND FOR HAVING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WRITTEN STORIES ALLEGEDLY WITHOUT ANY FOUNDATION ON FACTS."

DIRECTORS OF EL MUNDO HAVE APPEALED THE EXPULSION ORDER.
FYI: HAUSER APPEARED AT THE EMBASSY YESTERDAY REQUESTING AN
INTERVIEW WITH THE AMBASSADOR OVER THE GULF OIL STORY.
IO NEWMAN PASSED WORD TO HIM THAT THE AMBASSADOR WAS IN A MEETING
AND UNAVAILABLE. HAUSER REPLIED, "WELL, HE MUST BE IN A MEETING
TO DISCUSS THE GULF BRIBE." DESPITE HAVING ASSURED THE
AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WAS ROUTINE AND HAD NO CONNECTION WITH THE
GULF OIL STORY, HAUSER REPLIED: "I'M GOING TO WRITE A STORY SAYING
THAT IT IS PRESUMED THAT THE AMBASSADOR WAS DISCUSSING THE GULF
INCIDENT, BECAUSE IT WOULD BE OF GREAT INTEREST TO THE NEWSPAPER
TO GET SOME REACTION FROM U.S. EMBASSY (TO REPORTS OF GULF BRIBES
IN AN UNIDENTIFIED LATIN COUNTRY)." EL MUNDO GENERALLY RELIES
ON SENSATIONAL HEADLINES AS A CIRCULATION GIMMICK. NEWMAN
THEREUPON CALLED NEWSPAPER'S CITY EDITOR, EXPLAINED THE FACTS OF
THE SITUATION AND EDITOR AGREED TO KILL THE STORY.
HIGGINS

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